CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

retrieving a first object, wherein the first object comprises a first measurement information encoded in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

comparing the first object with a second object, wherein the second object comprises a second measurement information encoded in metadata elements of a second hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

retrieving the second object in response to the difference between the first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second measurement information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

2. A method of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

measuring selected features of a first object to form a first measurement information;

encoding the first measurement information in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document comprising a link to the first object;

measuring selected features of a second object to form a second measurement information;

encoding the second measurement information in metadata elements of a second hypertext markup language (HTML) document comprising a link to the second object; and

retrieving the second object in response to the difference between the first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second measurement information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

3. A method of encoding images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

measuring selected features of an object to form measurement information;

constructing a histogram for each of the selected features using the measurement information;

determining an area encompassed by each of the histograms; and

encoding areas of the histograms in metadata elements of a hypertext markup language (HTML) document.

4. A method of claim 3, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring an intensity of a preselected color of the object.

5. A method of claim 4, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color red.

6. A method of claim 4, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring intensity of the color green.

7. A method of claim 4, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring intensity of the color blue.

8. A method of claim 4, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring intensity of the color gray.

9. A method of claim 4, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring a geometric feature of the object.

10. A method of claim 9, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line distance.

11. A method of claim 9, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line angle.

12. A method of claim 3, wherein constructing the histogram comprises constructing an x-axis representing interval divisions of the selected feature and a y-axis representing a frequency of the selected feature.

13. A method of claim 3, further comprising converting the area under the histogram to a Lorenz Information Measure (LIM).

14. A method of claim 3, further comprising associating a link to the object in the HTML document.

15. A method of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

measuring selected features of a first object to form a first measurement information;

constructing a first histogram for each of the selected features using the first measurement information;

determining a first area encompassed by each of the first histograms;

encoding the first areas of the first histograms in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

measuring selected features of a second object to form a second measurement information;

constructing a second histogram for each of the selected features using the second measurement information;

determining a first area encompassed by each of the first histograms;

encoding the first areas of the first histograms in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document; and

retrieving the second object in response to the difference between first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second measurement

information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

16. A method of claim 15, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring an intensity of a preselected color of the object.

17. A method of claim 16, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color red.

18. A method of claim 16, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color green.

19. A method of claim 16, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color blue.

20. A method of claim 16, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color gray.

21. A method of claim 15, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring a geometric feature of the object.

22. A method of claim 21, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line distance.

23. A method of claim 21, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line angle.

24. A method of claim 15, wherein constructing the histogram comprises constructing an x-axis representing interval divisions of the selected feature and a y-axis representing a frequency of the selected feature.

25. A method of claim 15, further comprising converting the area under the histogram to a Lorenz Information Measure (LIM).

26. A method of claim 15, further comprising a link to the object in the HTML document.

27. A system of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

means for retrieving a first object, wherein the first object comprises a first measurement information encoded in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

means for comparing the first object with a second object, wherein the second object comprises a second measurement information encoded in metadata elements of a second hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

means for retrieving the second object in response to the difference between the first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second

measurement information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

28. A system of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

means for measuring selected features of a first object to form a first measurement information;

means for encoding the first measurement information in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document comprising a link to the first object;

means for measuring selected features of a second object to form a second measurement information;

means for encoding the second measurement information in metadata elements of a second hypertext markup language (HTML) document comprising a link to the second object; and

means for retrieving the second object in response to the difference between the first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second measurement information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

29. A system of encoding images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

means for measuring selected features of an object to form measurement information;

means for constructing a histogram for each of the selected features using the measurement information;

means for determining an area encompassed by each of the histograms; and

means for encoding areas of the histograms in metadata elements of a hypertext markup language (HTML) document.

30. A system of claim 29, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring an intensity of a preselected color of the object.

31. A system of claim 30, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color red.

32. A system of claim 30, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color green.

33. A system of claim 30, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color blue.

34. A system of claim 30, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color gray.

35. A system of claim 29 wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring a geometric feature of the object.

36. A system of claim 35 wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line distance.

37. A system of claim 35 wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line angle.

38. A system of claim 29 wherein constructing the histogram comprises constructing an x-axis representing interval divisions of the selected feature and a y-axis representing a frequency of the selected feature.

39. A system of claim 29 further comprising means for converting the area under the histogram to a Lorenz Information Measure (LIM).

40. A system of claim 27, further comprising associating a link to the object in the HTML document.

41. A system of retrieving images by content measure metadata encoding, comprising:

means for measuring selected features of a first object to form a first measurement information;

means for constructing a first histogram for each of the selected features using the first measurement information;

means for determining a first area encompassed by each of the first histograms;

means for encoding the first areas of the first histograms in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document;

means for measuring selected features of a second object to form a second measurement information;

means for constructing a second histogram for each of the selected features using the second measurement information;

means for determining a first area encompassed by each of the first histograms;

means for encoding the first areas of the first histograms in metadata elements of a first hypertext markup language (HTML) document; and

means for retrieving the second object in response to the difference between the first measurement information of the first HTML document and the second measurement information of the second HTML document being less than or equal to a threshold difference value.

42. A system of claim 41, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring an intensity of a preselected color of the object.

43. A system of claim 42, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color red.

44. A system of claim 42, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color green.

45. A system of claim 42, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color blue.

46. A system of claim 42, wherein measuring the intensity of the preselected color further comprises measuring the intensity of a color gray.

47. A system of claim 41, wherein measuring selected features further comprises measuring a geometric feature of the object.

48. A system of claim 47, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line distance.

49. A system of claim 47, wherein measuring the geometric feature further comprises measuring a line angle.

50. A system of claim 41, wherein constructing the histogram comprises constructing an x-axis representing interval divisions of the selected feature and a y-axis representing a frequency of the selected feature.

51. A system of claim 41, further comprising means for converting the area under the histogram to a Lorenz Information Measure (LIM).

52. A system of claim 41, further comprising associating a link to the object in the HTML document.